MAMMALOGY.—*Little-known reference to name of a harbor seal.* VICTOR B. SCHEFFER, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Communicated by Herbert Friedmann.)

About 1950, we received from its author a reprint of an article in Japanese, as follows: INUKAI, TETSUO. Hair seals (azarashi) in our northern waters [i.e., Japanese waters]. Shokubutsu oyobi Dobutsu [Botany and Zoology], Yokando, Tokyo, **10** (10): 927–932, text figs. 1–5 [fig. 1 in 2 parts], 1 October; no. 11, p. 1025–1030, text figs. 6–7, 1 November. 1942. [In the reprint, no. 10, is part 1, p. 37–42; no. 11 is part 2, p. 41–46.]

Among materials brought back by Ford Wilke, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from the National Resources Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, Tokyo, about 1950, is a translation of Inukai's article, translator's name not shown. We quote excerpts, as follows:

"I think these four species [ribbon seal, bearded seal, ringed seal, and harbor seal] are enough for the hair seal classification [to date] . . . In addition I tell you that another species 'zenigata-azarashi' is recognizable besides the above four" (p. 928).

"This species appears black as a whole and people call it 'Kuro'—black. It has spots all over the body, white ones about 3 cm. long and 1 cm. wide which have coin-shaped black spots inside them. These coin-shaped spots look like the spots of the 'fuiri-aza-rashi' [quite certainly the ringed seal, *Phoca hispida*], clear on the back and dim on the belly (fig. 4). The body size is almost the same as 'gomafu-azarashi' [quite certainly the harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina*] but many of them are rather small. They live mostly in the southern Kuriles and their distribution is limited to a small area on the Pacific coast. Their western limit is Erimo Zaki [southeastern Hokkaido], the eastern limit is northern Kuriles. Their skulls resemble 'gomafu' and they live with them except during the breeding season. I think they are a variation of the 'gomafu'. Their actions are faster than 'gomafu'; their legs are larger; they run away very quickly. I suggest *Phoca uochotensis* [read *ochotensis*; certainly a typesetter's error, since the name is spelled correctly elsewhere in the paper] var. *kurilensis* for this species. Occasionally, skins that appear intermediate between those are found in the southern Kuriles (fig. 5)." (This paragraph, including figs. 4 and 5, on p. 930.)

Fig. 4 represents the flat skin of a male, locality not specified. In our opinion, the pattern is that of a dark harbor seal, *P. vitulina*. Fig. 5 represents the flat skin of a male, apparently a medium-dark harbor seal. No measurements of body or skull for "zenigata" are given. No specimens were reported saved.

Farther along in his paper (pp. 930–1026) Inukai gives certain biological data for "zenigata." In a commercial catch of seals from the southern Kuriles from early July to early September, there were 139 harbor seals, 42 ringed seals, and 21 "zenigata". The copulating season for "zenigata" is said to be in mid-June, a little later than for the habor seals. This information, if true, would be extremely difficult to obtain. It indicates, however, that "zenigata" are adults and that the name is not a collective one for subadults. Pups are born with yellowish-white, long, downy hair—characteristic both of ringed and harbor seals. Mother seals carrying young on their backs are seen around Erimo Zaki in May—an observation which might be made both of ringed and harbor seals. " 'Zenigata' . . . seems to have the same food habits as 'gomafu' " . We take this to mean that "zenigata" feeds, like the harbor seal, on fish, squid, octopus, and larger shellfish, rather than like the ringed seal on macroplankton.

We call attention to the name *P. kurilensis* since it does not appear in the Zoological Record or in Ellerman and Morrison-Scott's "Check List of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals 1758 to 1946." Pending further study, we suggest that *P. kurilensis* be regarded as one of the approximately ten synonyms of *Phoca vitulina largha* Pallas, 1811.